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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **Hiroyuki IDE et al.**

Group Art Unit: **2612**

Serial No.: **09/816,672**

RECEIVED

Examiner: **Rashawn N. Tillery**

Filed: **March 26, 2001**

OCT 22 2004

Confirmation No.: **5731**

For: **DIGITAL CAMERA**

Technology Center 2600

Attorney Docket Number: **010428**

Customer Number: **38834**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

October 19, 2004

Sir:

The attention of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. One copy of each of these documents is attached.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted after the issuance of a first official action on the merits and expiration of the three month period following the filing date or the entry in the national stage for the above-captioned application, but prior to the issuance of either a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

The undersigned hereby certifies:

☒ That each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any

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individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

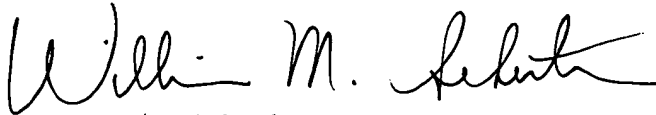
English language abstracts of the references cited in the communication from the Japanese Patent Office are enclosed to provide the requisite statement of relevance for the attached foreign references.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office may, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references cited in the attached Form PTO/SB/08 are made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commission is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2866 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully Submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Schertler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" and middle initial "M." clearly visible, followed by a stylized last name.

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	1	of	1
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Complete if Known

Application Number	09/816,672
Filing Date	March 26, 2001
First Named Inventor	Hiroyuki Ide
Art Unit	2612
Examiner Name	Rashawn N. Technology Center 2600
Attorney Docket Number	010428

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Examiner
Signature

Date
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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